

3-15-2010

The Portland Spectator, March 2010

Portland State University. Student Publications Board

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/spectator>

Recommended Citation

Portland State University. Student Publications Board, "The Portland Spectator, March 2010" (2010). *Portland Spectator*. Book 29.
<http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/spectator/29>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Portland Spectator by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. For more information, please contact pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

Civil Rights & Policing

Responding to the Aaron Campbell shooting p.12

Balancing National Debt

Obama reinstates PAYGO to manage expenses, but will it work? p.16

As it Happens: The Ron Lee Impeachment

The inside story as it unfolds p.8

PORTLAND

Spectator

Volume 8, Issue 6, March 2010

MAGAZINE



WHAT DOES IT MEAN To Be a **LEADER?**

By serving, they're getting more out of their college experience. In their own words, student leaders explain why you need to get involved. p.3

The Portland Spectator believes that the academic environment should be an open forum, where there is a chance for rational and prudent conservative arguments to be heard. We encourage the expression of diverse ideology to promote thought-provoking discussions.

Spotlight

03 | Focus on Leadership: Getting Involved Means Getting the Most from PSU

By Guest Writers

Christopher Proudfoot

Selina Poulsen

Karla Hernandez

Spectator Staples

02 | What Have You Done For Me Lately, ASPSU?

By Danielle Kulczyk

19 | Health: A Sticky Situation for Corn Syrup Consumers

By Megan Kimmelshue

21 | Spectator's Rearbutt

By Molly Shove

Online Exclusive

Web | Trying Not to be Evil: Google's New Approach to China

By Molly Shove

Features

06 | The Hitchhiker's Guide To Bureaucracy

By Molly Shove

08 | As It Happens: The Impeachment of Ron Lee

By Joe Wirthheim

10 | Native American Center Coordinator Dropped

By Jeff Wickizer

Stories

12 | Civil Rights & Practical Policing

By Jeff Wickizer

15 | Oregon's Legislators Act Fast

By Erica Charves

16 | A Balancing Act: Our National Debt

By Jonathan Miles



On the Cover:

Left to Right is Karla Hernandez, Selina Poulsen, and Christopher Proudfoot.

Staff

Editor-In-Chief
Joe Wirthheim

Senior Editor
Jonathan Miles

Copy Editor
Megan Kimmelshue

Online Editor
Molly Shove

Marketing Manager
Samantha Berrier

Senior Writer
Jeff Wickizer

Staff Writers
Alexander Almeida
Erica Charves
Danielle Kulczyk

Art Director
Laura Jones

Graphic Design
Kathryn Soule

Photographer
Clara Rodriguez

Web Design
Andy Nichols

Contact Us

The Portland Spectator accepts letters to the editor and commentaries from students, faculty and staff at Portland State University. Please limit your letters to 300 words when possible.

The Portland Spectator: P.O. Box 347, Portland, OR 97207 // SMSU S29
pdxspectator@gmail.com // 503.725.9795 // www.portlandspectator.org

The Portland Spectator is published by the Student Publications Board of Portland State University. It is funded through incidental student fees, advertisement revenue, and private donations. All essays and commentaries herein represent the opinions of the writer and not necessarily the opinions of the staff.

We reserve the right to edit material we find obscene, libelous, inappropriate or lengthy. We are not obliged to print anything to which we do not consent. Unsolicited material will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self addressed envelope.

Submission constitutes testimony as to the accuracy.

Copyright 2003-2010
The Portland Spectator
All rights reserved.

Dear Readers,

As winter term comes to an end, and student elections are impending, *The Spectator* staff decided it was time for a focus on student leadership at PSU. Rather than pontificate on what we think leadership is or should be, *The Spectator* has invited several guest columnists to tell us, in their own words, what leadership at PSU means to them.

While this issue provides space for student leaders like Christopher Proudfoot, Selina Poulsen and Karla Hernandez, it also delivers the same investigative and thoughtful stories that make *The Spectator* the premier publication on campus. Erica Charves gives a capital update from the state Legislature, Joe Wirtheim follows up on *The Spectator*'s coverage of the Ron Lee phenomenon, and new contributing writer Danielle Kulczyk follows the money in the wake of the Student Fee Committee's controversial budget allocations. Not to mention Senior Writer Jeff Wickizer's reports on the Campbell police shooting and the Native American Center.

Take our focus on leadership this month as a call to action. Now is an opportune time to get involved on campus by running for office in student government or volunteering with campaigns this spring. Oh, and by the way, *The Spectator* has finally joined the 21st century with a new and updated Web site managed by Online Editor Molly Shove, who has written a web exclusive article and will be continuing coverage of *Spectator* news stories throughout the month.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Miles
Senior Editor



Find more online:
www.portlandspectator.org



Above: Freshmen Roxy Barton, business major and Rachel Foxworthy, psychology major in Smith.

Right: Nathan Skavdahl, international studies major, takes a break in the Park Blocks.

Below: Brown bagging students in Smith basement wait in line for microwaves.
Photos by Clara Rodriguez



What have You done for Me Lately, ASPSU?

By Danielle Kulczyk

Hardest Part of Change: Making it Stick

The Student Fee Committee (SFC) has spent countless hours bettering their allocation system for this year, but with single year term limits, what is to stop next year's SFC from starting over from scratch? This question was raised during an SFC presentation on Feb. 22.

Johnnie Ozimkowski, SFC chair, responded by saying the SFC is overhauling their guiding principles to prevent unchecked growth for next year. Ozimkowski said he hopes to work with legal council on the specific language, as well as collaborate with ASPSU and Portland State students not involved in government. He then plans to "advertise" the proposed changes to the student community at large and receive feedback.

SFC member Christian Messerschmitt indicated that the SFC is forming a well-reasoned set of guiding principles that the next SFC would have a difficult time arguing against and reversing.

SFC Drastically Cuts Student Travel

This year's SFC has placed a cap on student group travel and eliminated international travel entirely. Ozimkowski said, "International travel is not something student fees should be paying for. It's not appropriate."

Limiting domestic travel to \$2,500, and the international travel ban, has stranded many groups. The Portland State chapter of Engineers Without Borders even gave up SFC funding. "There was no scenario acceptable to SFC/SALP that would have resulted in our continued SFC status, so we've relinquished it," said Chad Norvell, president of EWBP-PSU. The PSU Debate Team is also grounded by the change, and will not be able to go to Worlds, among other tournaments.

With this travel restriction, the SFC hopes the student fee will be more widely dispersed throughout the campus community, instead of to the limited number of students in groups who utilize travel.



SFC members at an Oct. 13 meeting.
L-R: Christian Messerschmitt, Johnnie Ozimkowski, and Jim Gent.
Photo by Clara Rodriguez

Ozimkowski also wants to restructure the Academically-Controlled Auxiliary Activities (AAA) Committee into a better resource for students who want to travel but cannot receive money through other Portland State channels. The AAA fund is supported by student fee money and funds educational, aesthetic and institutional activities, according to the SALP Web site.

OSA Campus Organizer Position Cut, ASPSU Appeals for Reinstatement

In initial budget allocations released Feb. 15, the SFC cut the Oregon Student Association (OSA) campus organizer position from ASPSU's 2010-11 budget, a savings of \$33,000. The SFC specified the cut came as a result of the imposed growth cap of five percent. ASPSU is appealing the SFC's decision, but even without the \$33,000, ASPSU still gives OSA approximately \$77,000 per year in dues.

"ASPSU has the biggest budget, but as the budget has gotten bigger over the years, they have become less efficient," Ozimkowski said. He expressed that if the position is a priority, then ASPSU should figure out where the funding can come from, and he suggested decreasing stipends.

Ed Hallman, ASPSU vice president, said, "It is one of the most important positions on campus. It is a resource to all students—not an ASPSU service exclusively." Hallman said he personally had already cut ASPSU's stipend budget as much as possible. Due to a clerical error made by last year's SFC, ASPSU is \$40,000 short on stipends this year and ASPSU will not get that money back.

The OSA is a non-profit organization made up of the student governments of Oregon state universities. The OSA lobbies the state government and advocates for college students. Only Portland State, University of Oregon and Lane Community College have full-time campus coordinator positions, per the OSA Web site. ■

Focus on Leadership

Getting Involved Means Getting the Most From PSU

Guest Columnist Christopher Proudfoot

Have you ever wondered if you are getting the most out of PSU? It seems like there really should be more to this idea of higher education than a few hours of lecture, a few thousands of pages of reading a week, a few quick assignments, or maybe a little group project before finishing off the term with a 20-page paper and a two-hour final exam. Don't get me wrong; I am just as much an advocate for the "basics of education" as the next guy. I know that a solid foundation of fundamentals, a tried and well-tested strategy, followed by example and experience, is the perfect recipe for success.

So ask yourself, am I getting everything I need here to truly be successful? Am I grasping at every opportunity that comes my way?

Finally, in getting the fundamentals, am I getting everything? I am a student here at PSU, I am a political science major and like everyone else here at PSU, I would like to get my degree and get a JOB! Like so many of you, my resume starts with "Portland State University." However, unlike many of you, my resume includes phrases like "Chairman of the Board," "Director of Legislative Affairs," "Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors," "Liaison," "Advisor," internship after internship, "Committee Member," and just as important, I have letters of recommendation from the Secretary of State, deputy Secretary of State, executive directors of non-profits, organizing directors, presidents and deans. So my answer to the above question is a confident "yes". Everything I listed above is partially due in part to being a student at PSU. This university offers a wealth of knowledge and excellent faculty, and additionally, this university offers EXPERIENCE just waiting to be had. Unfortunately, most students don't know that.

Like many of you, I have taken PS200 and several other corresponding classes that give a great introduction to the "basics." In

Editor's Note: Leadership is a thing that eludes precise definition—everyone has a different picture of what a leader is, exactly. Is leadership a communication technique? Or the ability to put together a to-do list? We asked several student leaders to speak about their experiences as involved student leaders and their responses revealed a much more nuanced answer. They pointed towards the development of certain qualities that no classroom could bring forward—things like attitude, vision and the ability to mentor those around them.

Read on and hear students speak, in their own words, about their leadership experiences. We hope you become inspired to join them.

many of my classes, I have learned the process of government, election and organizing movements. Outside of the classroom, I have been a part of the process of government, ran in an election and lead organizing movements. I have lobbied and passed legislation, been in the room when a bill became the law. I have been taught the budget processes in class, outside of class I have negotiated for millions.

Opportunities are abundant; sometimes you just need to walk around the campus a bit.

Someone once said to me, "If you are not networking in college, you are wasting thousands of dollars on a piece of recyclable paper." Nothing could be closer to the truth.

Here at PSU we have the tools! The student fee is not just a fee, and it is not just some money. It is the ability to self-govern! It is



Christopher Proudfoot
Photo by Clara Rodriguez

the ability to have opportunity, control our destiny, our choices, and to make the most of what PSU provides for students.

When I came to PSU, I was one person, who knew little beyond what I had learned from right in front of me. In the past year and a half, I have been a part of cultures I would have never experienced before. I have been able to help people like I had never imagined. Last summer, someone called me an “ally,” the summer before that I barely knew what that meant.

We sit in a class in the middle of a major city. You may not realize it, but Senator Wyden’s office is four blocks away from campus. The City of Portland’s governing body is on the Max line just a few stops away, and the federal 9th Circuit Court just the next stop past the City of Portland. You have major banks, investment firms,

technology giants, marketing firms, and so much more just in this area.

In my year and a half at PSU, I have barely scratched the surface. There are over 200 student groups. I have only worked closely with one; I have worked with 3 or 4 others, but there are so many more I want to work with and experience.

If all you have known here at PSU is what you have learned from class, you are missing out! You can and **SHOULD** apply and expand that! We have all the tools imaginable to get a priceless education here on campus. The value of your degree here at PSU is entirely up to you!

– Christopher Proudfoot, Chairman,
SMSU Advisory Board

Before I became a student senator for ASPSU,

I was involved in eight student groups on campus. I was trying to find where I fit in.

Portland State is huge and I am from a town half the size of this university. I knew I didn’t want to just go to class, go home, study, and then try to entertain myself for the rest of the evening. I wanted to see what university life was all about; after all, I am paying to support these student groups through my student fees. The least I could get was some free food.

One thing led to another and I kept getting more involved. Moving from a volunteer to a leader was sped up tremendously by New Leadership Oregon (a leadership program hosted at PSU over the summer). After that, I was more politically charged and wanted to take an active role in effecting change on my campus. That’s when I found Student Government.

The biggest test to all the skills I had gained over my first year at PSU was running the class rap portion of the Vote campaign. I gave up a lot to be able to run that portion of the campaign, but it was so rewarding that the weekends spent in the office were worth it. I may have given up a lot of my free time I had once dedicated to learning guitar or reading, but I have gained so much more. I feel confident going to meetings with administrators and speaking in front of a class of over one hundred students. I also feel more comfortable knowing that I can get all my school work done, because if you work well under pressure (a.k.a procrastinating), being a student leader perfects working under a strict deadline.

The question still hanging in the air is why should someone get involved? First and foremost, it is fun. There is a sense of community between the student leaders on campus because the percentage of the student population involved in student leadership is so few. And finally, leadership gives you a set of skills that are applicable anywhere. It not only teaches someone how to become a leader, but it teaches someone how to step down from a leadership role and make room for the next generation of leaders.

– Selina Poulsen, ASPSU Senator



Selina Poulsen
Photo by Joe Wirtheim

Run for ASPSU office

The paperwork is the easy part

The ASPSU Elections are in May, but if you’re interested in running for a seat in student government, the due date to file is **March 19**.

Forms to file for candidacy can be found in ASPSU offices, SMSU 117.

Elected student positions include:

- Student body president and vice-president
- Student Fee Committee chair and members (6 elected)
- Student senators (25 seats)

My first experience as a student leader

began my sophomore year when I held the position of co-coordinator to Las Mujeres, a student organization on campus. That experience led me to become

more involved on campus, which was just the start of the different student leader roles I would later hold. Overall, my experiences as a student leader have shown me the different qualities and skills that are helpful in order for me to succeed in my roles. The majority of the skills that I now utilize as a student leader have been skills that I have developed through years of coordinating and participating in student groups. They have also contributed to my success not only as a concerned member of the university, but also in my academic success.

I am currently one of the co-coordinators of the Student Ambassador Program. This is my second year as a student ambassador. I also volunteer off-campus with the Sexual Assault Resource Center and have been doing this for over a year now. In the past, besides working as the coordinator for Las Mujeres, I served on the Student Fee Committee (SFC), sat on the Academic Appeals Board and was the Chair to the dance committees for the 2007 Roots Festival.

When I first became involved I honestly did not know what to expect. I jumped into my first position and took it from there. Having been through different student leadership positions I have found my experience to be so rewarding. I would not have expected

to get out as much as I have these last four years of my college experience. I have met so many wonderful people. I have worked with other talented student leaders and I have come to admire student involvement. I'm very grateful for the experiences I have gained these last four years.

I was part of amazing team of committed students during the SFC year. That year we were able to maintain fees at the same rate, and we were very careful about looking at budgets. Through my involvement on the SFC, I attended the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. and learned more about issues concerning students. I have helped other students get involved and have seen them develop into student leaders themselves. I was also able to build good connections with community members.

Becoming involved on campus has helped me value my education and experience more than ever. I have come to know the term "hard work" very well; it definitely takes a lot of work to be able to manage academics, life, student involvement, and any additional work that we do outside of campus. I have managed to balance my school, family, student involvement, work and volunteering while still keeping myself sane.

The only thing that I had to give up was working full-time. During my junior year I took on several different leadership positions on campus, and I was not able to manage going to school full-time, fulfilling my hours in my student positions, and be expected to work an additional 40 hours a week. Instead, I stepped down with my main employer and became a part-time employee. I knew what my priorities were and it was not a bad decision reducing my

Student leaders are those who make their involvement visible to others but also do things because they see that things need to change.

work hours. I work with an understanding employer who has been very supportive of my student involvement.

A student leader is not always defined as a student who holds positions in a group, such as a president of a club or treasurer, but they can also be someone who actively seeks ways to get involved and contribute to the success of student experience on campus and also the success of their surrounding communities. Just because someone feels they don't have enough experience in leadership roles should not keep them from getting involved.

Student leaders can be those students who meet each week with other individuals to collaborate and work together towards the common purpose of bettering their communities.

**— Karla Hernandez, Coordinator,
Student Ambassador Program**



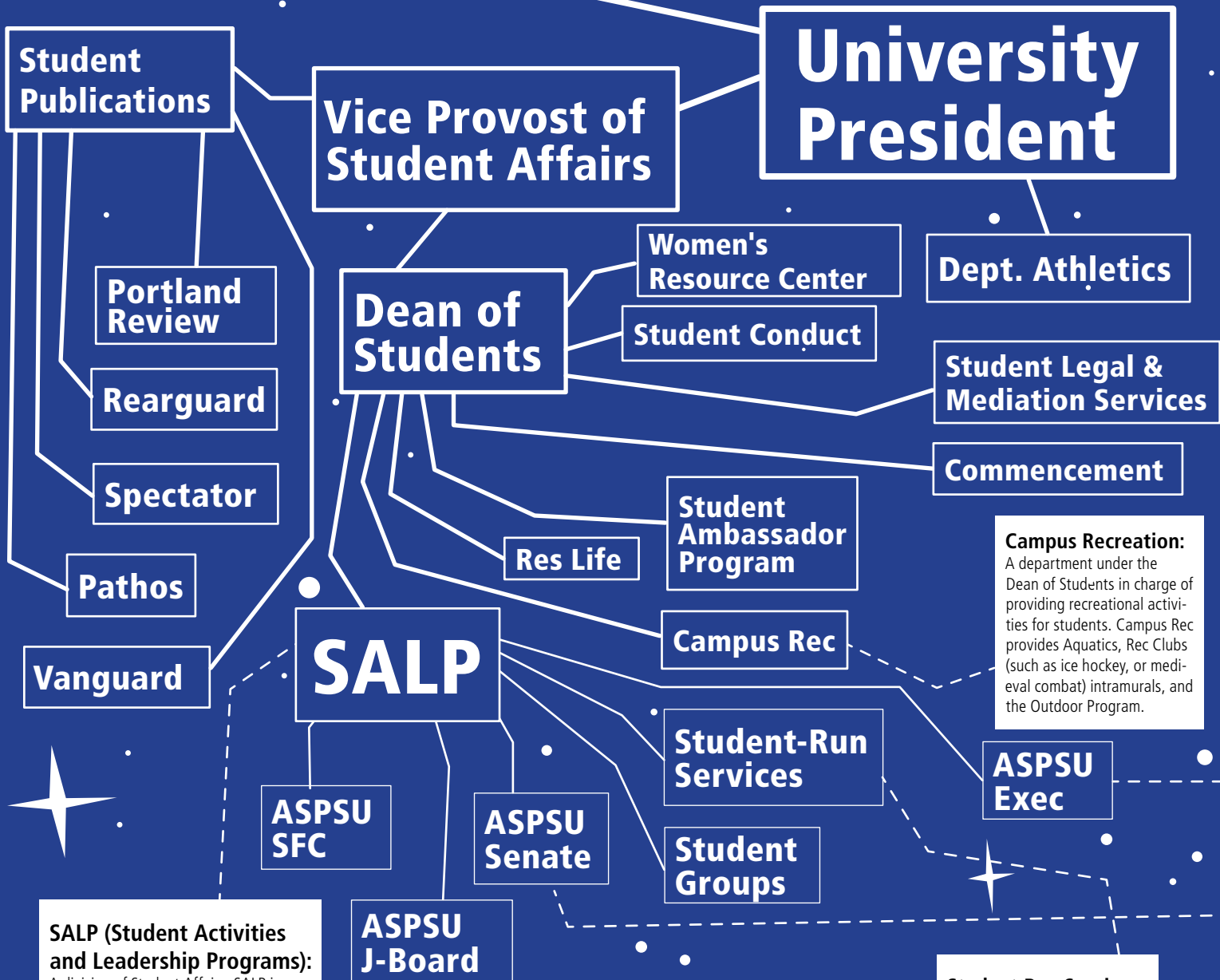
Karla Hernandez
Photo by Joe Wirtheim

The Hitchhiker's Guide to Bureaucracy

Compiled By Molly Shove

Editor's Note: First, don't panic. PSU is not being scheduled for demolition. But you are going to need this chart if you want to navigate PSU bureaucracy during your college career. On the left is the power structure—who oversees what. On the right is the money structure. Keep this thing handy, and good luck.

The Power



SALP (Student Activities and Leadership Programs):

A division of Student Affairs, SALP is under the Dean of Students and paid for by the SFC with student fee dollars. This organization of professional staff formerly recognize and advise student groups on membership, activities planning, conflicts and how to cut through university red tape.

Campus Recreation:

A department under the Dean of Students in charge of providing recreational activities for students. Campus Rec provides Aquatics, Rec Clubs (such as ice hockey, or medieval combat) intramurals, and the Outdoor Program.

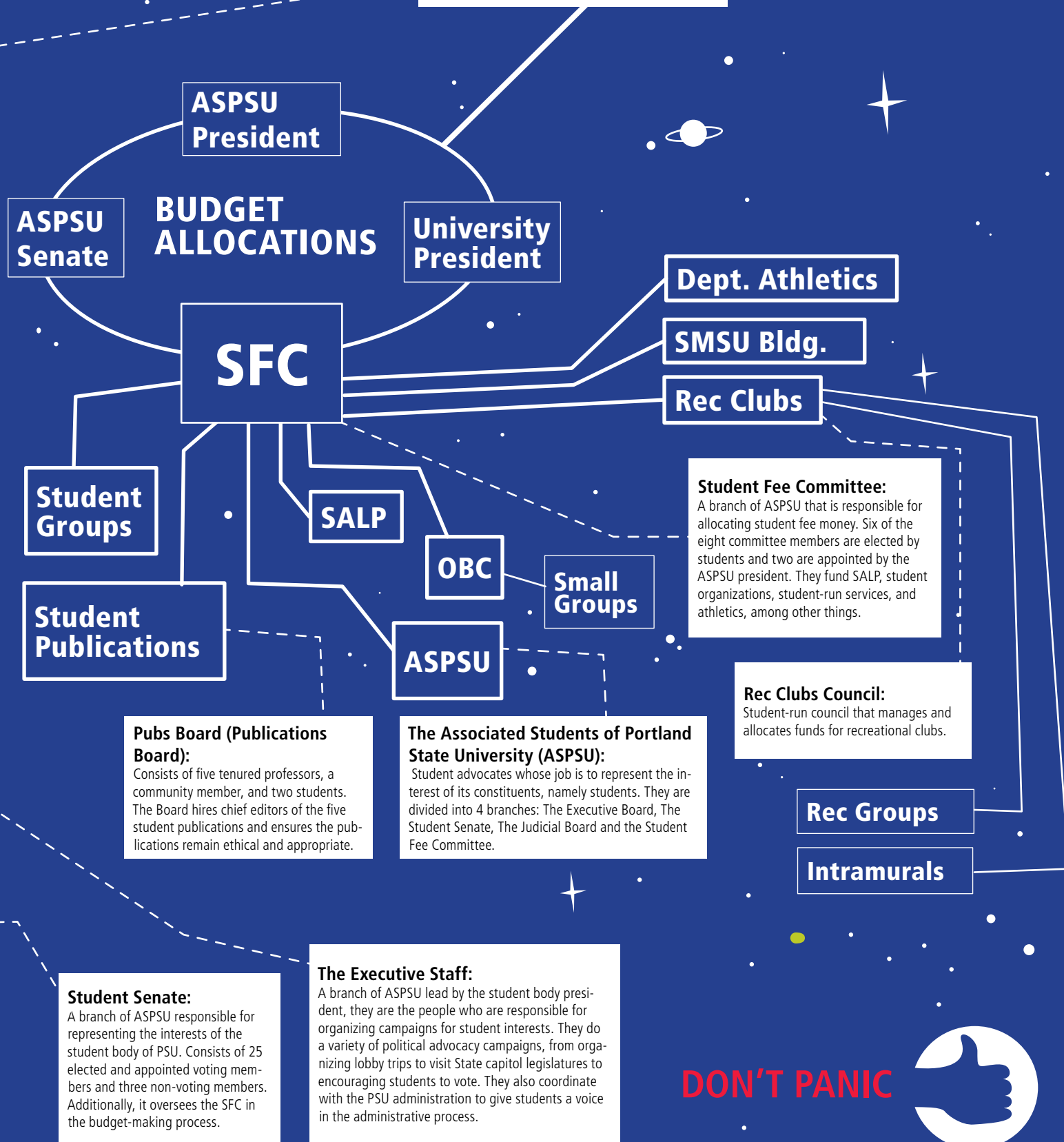
J-Board (Judicial Board):

Consists of five Justices and one Senate liaison. They examine the workings of ASPSU to ensure that it is constitutional, and suggest alterations to the ASPSU constitution to make ASPSU function more effectively.

Student-Run Services:

These are services funded by student fees and run by students for students. There are five student services on campus: Food for Thought, Fifth Avenue Cinema, Littman and White galleries, the Queer Resource Center, and Portland State Professional Sound.

The Money



DON'T PANIC



As it Happens

The Impeachment of Ron Lee

Editor's Note: ASPSU Student Fee Committee member Ron Lee is facing an impeachment hearing for ethical wrongdoing. The attention request was submitted by ASPSU Senator P.V. Jantz on January 26, a few weeks after *The Spectator* broke the story regarding Lee's actions toward the Pre-Law Society, its president, Ashley McClain, and its faculty adviser Dr. R. Kevin Hill ["Allegations Leave Student Group Reeling" January 2010]. Initially, the request was brought before the Judicial Board, but since most justices are members of the Pre-Law Society, they chose to sit themselves out of the proceedings. The matter is now before the Student Senate, but they must first decide whether to hear the case. *The Spectator's* chief editor watched the events unfold during an ASPSU Senate meeting on the evening of February 23 in SMSU 296.

By Joe Wirtheim

The Student Senate meeting is scheduled to start in a few minutes, and I'm sitting next to Ron Lee on the periphery of the Senate table-circle. "I feel it's pretty cut and dry. The burden of proof is on the Senate. I'm going to see what they say," he says to me, taking a breath, then, "I'm nervous."

Lee is leaning forward, sitting on the edge of his chair. A well-curved white cap sits tight and straight on his head. Unseasonable shorts come to his knees where he rests a manila folder labeled "Steven P.V. Jantz." Lee opens the folder to thumb through printed e-mails, newspaper clippings, and even a copy of *The Spectator*—evidence, apparently.

ASPSU Vice-President Eddie Hallman, who moderates, gets serious for his preamble. "I really want this not to be some ridiculous circus," he says. "Please keep your tone and wording respectful. That goes for everybody."

The room is packed. Every who's who of student government is here: a couple of SFC members, about 17 Student Senate members, the student body president and some of the executive staff members. An administrator from SALP is also present, as well as Dean of Students Michelle Toppe. The media is here: *Vanguard* news editor Virginia Vickery, this *Spectator* editor, and a couple of photographers are circulating and clicking shutters.

ASPSU Judicial Board Chief Justice Brad Vehafric announces it's been five or six years since anyone in ASPSU has been impeached—meaning no one seems to know what this will look like. They're about to have plenty of practice. Shortly after Lee learned of Jantz's request in late January, Lee submitted his own impeachment requests for Jantz, Judicial Board member Ashley McClain (who



At the ASPSU Senate hearing February 23.
Left: Joe Wirtheim, chief editor of *The Spectator*.
Center: Ron Lee, SFC member
Right: Virginia Vickery, news editor of *The Vanguard*.
Photo by Clara Rodriguez

is Lee's principle complainant), Vehafric, and for good measure, ASPSU President Jonathan Sanford.

Jantz delivers his opening statement; a reflection in his glasses obscures his eyes. "I felt there were questions that needed to be addressed," he says, "I want to be very clear that I want answers to the questions proposed."

Now it's Lee's turn to stand before the audience and give some opening remarks. He makes a strange gesture of pressing his fists together in front of his chest as he talks. "It's completely ludicrous that I have done anything unethical," he says.

From here, the evening starts to plod and few questions get answered. Some want to table the issue until next week's meeting. "We don't have the right tools," says one senator, referring to the "impeach or not impeach" choice. Right now, there are no in-between options, except perhaps a letter of censure.

It's been an hour and twenty minutes. Finally, Amaya Taina, in a meek voice, makes a motion to begin deliberations. Chris Proudfoot seconds it. Hallman calls the vote and counts the hands. "The ayes have it. We are officially in the process of deliberations," says Hallman. There is noticeable relief to be able to move forward.

Then from Lee, "I'm tired of this game." He stands and leaves the room. There's some commotion, but eventually they agree to continue. Vehafric is asked to start from the top and tell the story of what happened. "Has everyone heard of the \$5?" he starts. "No!" several voices respond in unison.

The next half-hour is spent recapping events until, finally, time runs out; everyone is exhausted. Hallman takes a straw poll to see who's ready to decide on what to do about Lee—not enough are ready. The meeting ends with a resolution to decide the matter next week one way or another, as well as an assignment from Selina Poulson: Senators need to do their homework on this case if it's to finish next week.

Epilogue

In terms of the Senate's homework, there's plenty to read—the case is well documented. In fact, it was an e-mail post on a public listserv that started the whole thing. However, Lee is notorious for obstructing the issue with long-winded written statements that begin congenially enough, but often descend into veiled threats. His favorite technique is to return complaint emails peppered with his own comments in bold, such as "Are you really reading this? ... These are utterly ridiculous statements" or "logical fallacy / conclusion is fallacious" and "this is also utter nonsense." That's probably why so few senators actually read the materials.

The next day, right on cue, messages from Lee appear on the Senate e-mail listserv. In about 1,700 words, (with an additional 2,000 attached) Lee makes an ultimatum to the senators: drop the impeachment or face consequences saying, "Let me also be completely frank with what you can expect if you do impeach me under the given circumstances without facts to support it... I have sought legal counsel on this matter and if you do not follow the process I would suggest you start setting aside personal money for a legal retainer..."

Next week, the case is to continue, and Lee's impeachment requests for everyone else are still in the pipe. The Senate is effectively shut down and there's no telling when the obstruction will pass. ■



Find more online:
www.portlandspectator.org



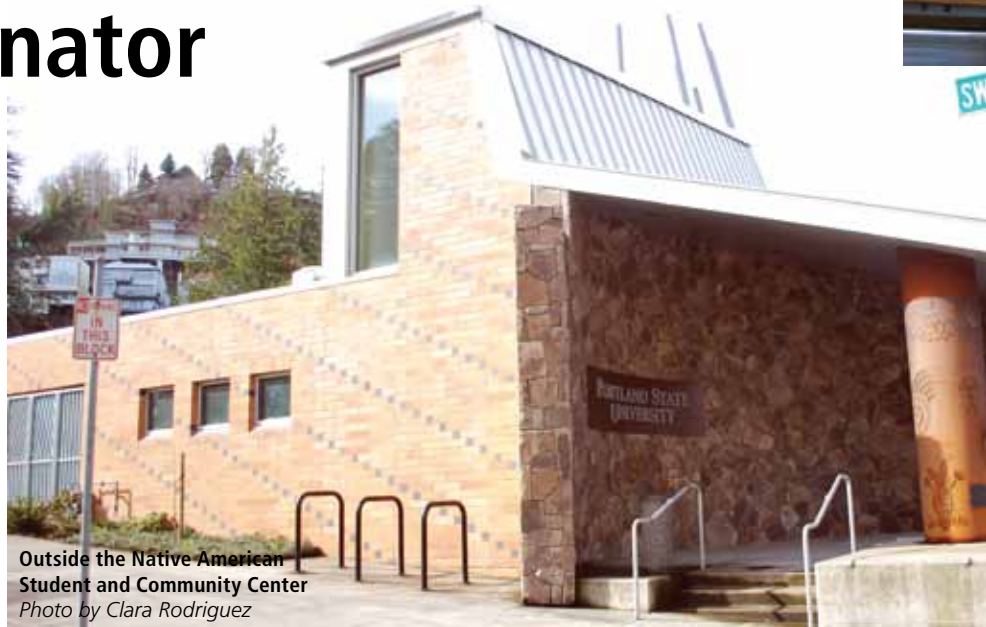
Senators take a straw poll February 23. Straw polls are not actual votes; they're a way to test an idea or see whether an issue needs more deliberation.

Photo by Clara Rodríguez

Native American Center Coordinator Dropped

PSU's Native American Center is running in the red, and the university administration has had enough. Here's how cutting corners will save dollars, but may highlight a clash of cultures

By Jeff Wickizer



Outside the Native American Student and Community Center
Photo by Clara Rodriguez

Since opening in October of 2003, the Native American Student and Community Center (NASCC) has provided spiritual and cultural support for the university's Native American students. Paulette Watanabe, director of Educational Equity Programs and Services at PSU, said, "The center is a place away from home for Native American students to gather. It is a crucially important building." But recent administrative changes have raised concerns about the future of the NASCC among its staff and students, as well as in the community.

The center's fiscal deficiencies have led to an annual operating deficit. From late 2003 through 2009, the NASCC incurred \$125,000 in operating losses, which PSU's Department of Student Affairs has been left to cover, on top of the roughly \$60,000 per year they already contribute to the center.

Watanabe is currently acting as a liaison between the center and the administration. According to her, the PSU Department of Finance and Administration gave the NASCC and Student Affairs several years to correct the problem and come up with a viable plan to run the center. Now, after another year of operating losses, Watanabe said she was informed, "You have to come up with something concrete." The NASCC is classified as a mock auxiliary which

requires it to be self-sufficient. According to a budget analysis conducted by Student Affairs, if the center continued with a coordinator running the facility, operating debt would reach \$147,898 by fiscal year 2011. But with a low-level administrative position, like an office manager, running the facility, the center would start returning a profit as early as the end of this fiscal year. By 2011, the deficit would be reduced from \$125,000 to \$68,000.

Based on this assessment, Tabitha Whitefoot, the coordinator of the NASCC, was let go on January 28, in large part due to salary concerns and the financial strain it placed on the budget. Whitefoot's involvement and impact on the center appeared to have already been in transition. "Changes that happened over the last year for me were reduced involvement in student/university support, reduced responsibility for 'educational' objectives, lack of support for community functions and increased administrative restraint," she said, and also claims that there was "stated suspicion of my 'work' and 'ethics.'"

The "office manager" role will handle almost all of the same functions, but with a reduced salary. With the cancellation of this administrative position and negotiations between PSU and NASCC still

ongoing, concerns about the future of the NASCC are beginning to grow among its staff and students, as well as in the community. According to Watanabe, "The outcry came from replacing staff that wasn't essential to running the center." According to Whitefoot, the timing and manner in which this transition was handled could have a significant impact on the center, "This could undo significant good work that had been done. Policies of student use and charges were changed, community access diminished and greater scrutiny of expenses, maintenance costs, and contracting."

Watanabe has seen initial concerns turn into rumors, noting, "We need to clear the misconceptions." What she has heard from students and those in the Native American community is that the university is attempting to get rid of student groups or turn the center into "just another academic building." Watanabe adamantly denies these claims, saying, "It is a crucially important building and it brings more value than just revenue."

She also points out that the building—only 13,000 square feet—is not big enough to house Native American studies and is not designed to hold large classes. It was designed for and meant to be a student



If you would like to find out more information on the NASCC, please visit their new website at www.pdx.edu/nativecenter.

and community center. Professor Cornel Pewewardy and Professor Grace Dillon, whose offices are in the NASCC, lease the space, which provides revenue to the center. Whitefoot suggests that this is in contrast to the center's status as a mock auxiliary. If groups are not charged for use of the center, it makes it increasingly difficult for the center to sustain itself financially.

Construction funding for the NASCC came from a wide variety of sources. According to Pewewardy, a large portion of the money came from the Grande Ronde and Siletz tribes, as well as contributions from individuals and local companies. Roughly \$1.2 million was issued in a bond by the university to aid in the construction of the current facility. This bond was not required to be paid back by the center; it came from a surplus of student fees already paid to the school.

Six months before the opening of the center, it became apparent that there was not a viable plan in place to fund daily operations. The Advisory Board of the NASCC and PSU's Student Affairs decided that it would lease portions of the facility to outside community groups and private parties to generate the necessary funds. The fact is that leasing the center has not provided the revenue needed, and to do so, it would have to be leased on a consistent basis. Leasing the center constantly would make it a "rental facility," denying Native students the access they need and are accustomed to according to Watanabe, who added, "If we tried to promote external use of the center, we would have less time in the schedule for students."

Pewewardy, relatively new to his position as a member of the NASCC Advisory Board, has plans for the NASCC as well. Pewewardy said, "I would like to implement advisors and mentors and create workshops with students." As a Native American community member and teacher at the university, he has developed a strong bond with many of the students. As stated on the NASCC Web site, the goal is to "enhance the student experience through linking students with tribal leaders, Native American professionals, Native service organizations and traditional community activities."

Watanabe wants to make it clear to the Native American community, Native American studies, and all students of PSU that there is a strong commitment to the success of the center. "I think the real value has been the knowledge and understanding non-native students have gained regarding Native culture," adding, "We have a lot more Native American graduate students." Watanabe points out, "Traditionally the retention of Native American students in higher education has been on the low end;

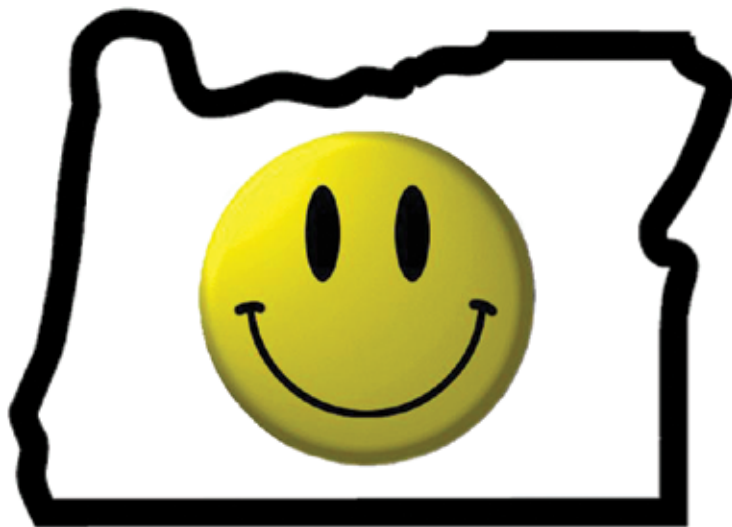
all the tribes want to see their students be successful, as well as the university."

Whitefoot has a vision for the NASCC that she hopes will continue after her departure, as well as a message for the university, its students, and the community. "The center can have a great positive effect on how the university engages and works alongside Native populations. As a population, Native Americans have had numerous things done to them by the dominant society. We no longer tolerate this style of 'administering.' It is time for all institutions to commit to working with us." ■

With contributing reporting by Danielle Kulczyk

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

College Republicans For a Happy Oregon



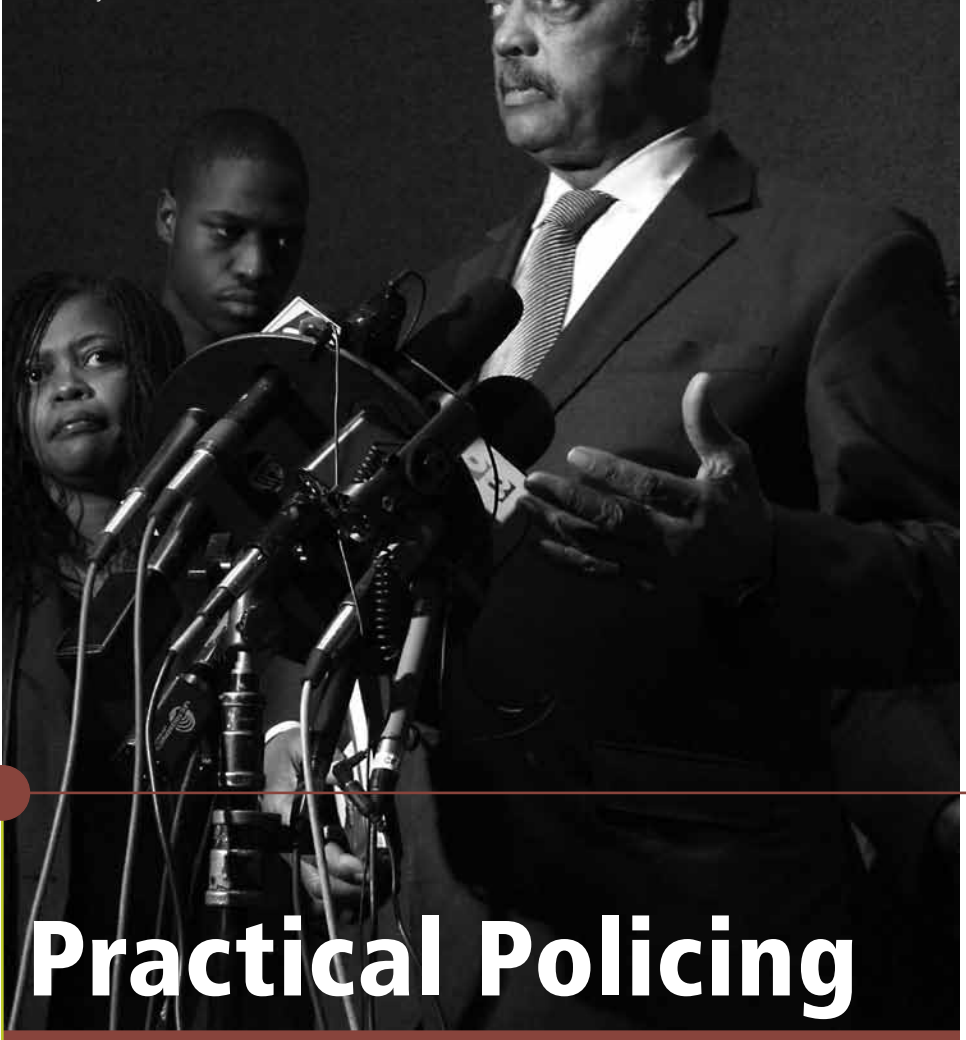
Portland State College Republicans
Wednesdays 5pm
Smith 258

With national scrutiny focused on Portland Police, the Rev. Jesse Jackson arrives to meet with City leaders and rally the community after the Aaron Campbell shooting. But will this be more finger pointing or a chance for realistic solutions?

Civil Rights and

Practical Policing

The Rev. Jesse Jackson speaks at the Maranatha Church on NE Skidmore, February 16.
Photo by Alexander Almeida



By Jeff Wickizer

The Rev. Jesse Jackson walked into the Maranatha Church on N.E. Skidmore on February 16 to deliver a message to the 1,000 people, plus a throng of reporters. They were waiting to hear his response to the fatal shooting of Aaron Campbell at the hands of the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) January 29. Jackson spoke about the racial tension of this situation to an audience all too aware of the PPB's record.

Jackson started off by telling the gathered media that the incident was "a tragic execution" and that, "We are free but not equal." Jackson has a long and distinguished career as a civil rights activist, working closely with Martin Luther King, Jr. since the 1960s. He is a respected yet controversial figure when it comes to issues of race relations, and in particular, the advancement and equal treatment of African Americans in the United States. Jackson, in an apparent attack on the PPB said, "We fight terrorists around the world, we at least want to be protected from terrorism at home."

Campbell, a black man, lost his life on January 29 while emotionally distraught over the recent passing of his brother. Campbell's death was unnecessary and could have easily been

avoided with appropriate police procedures and training—like the recent Portland grand jury suggested. What will make the loss even more tragic is if the citizens of Portland do not demand that useless rhetoric be put aside to address the real issues that led to Campbell's death.

The grand jury, which convened on February 9, sent a letter the next day to Multnomah County District Attorney Michael Schrunk in which they explained their findings and reasoning. The jurors started out by saying, "Use of deadly force by a Police Officer is considered justifiable under very specific conditions, and in this case the applicable conditions were whether or not Officer Frashour believed he or his fellow officers were in imminent danger." They went on to write, "Officer Frashour's actions were consistent with the relevant laws and statutes regarding the use of deadly force by a police officer."

Jackson responded by saying, "The grand jury was all white; not representative of the city."

Police Commissioner Dan Saltzman agreed to ask the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to pursue a civil rights investigation

Timeline of Aaron Campbell Shooting Incident:

4:22 p.m.

Portland Police respond to a 911 call at Sandy Terrace Apartments, regarding a suicidal man with a gun. The man is identified as Aaron Campbell during initial call.

4:30 p.m.

North Precinct Officer John Boylan is the first to arrive on scene. He is met by Campbell's girlfriend in the parking lot. She tells police he is inside the residence with three children and is suicidal. She tells police she had seen Campbell put a gun in the pocket of his coat.

5:30 p.m.

Campbell texts Officer Quackenbush, who was the crisis negotiator on scene, saying, "Don't make me get my gun I'm not playing," dispatch records say.

5:33 p.m.

The three children come out of the building uninjured.

6:07 p.m.

Campbell comes out of the building. Witnesses say he walked backward toward officers, with his hands locked behind his head.

Police claim that Campbell refused their commands to put his hands in the air; he instead left them behind his neck, and then began to lower them. They say he was moving backward quickly while yelling at officers that they were going to have to shoot him.

6:21 p.m.

Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) paged to arrive on scene.

6:34 p.m.

SERT team arrives on scene to approach and check on Aaron Campbell. Once they reach his body, they determine he is deceased. There is roughly a twenty-five minute gap between the time Campbell is shot and when Paramedics are allowed to check on his status.

6:08 p.m.

Officer Ryan Lewton fires two beanbag rounds, and when Campbell doesn't comply with commands given by officers, he fires four more. Officer Frashour fires at Campbell with an AR-15 rifle, hitting him in the back.

into Campbell's death, and followed that up by stating that he doubted the investigation would find anything. On Friday February 19, Oregon Attorney General John Kroger informed protestors at Portland State University that the DOJ had agreed to open a case.

Communication matters

During his speech, Jackson stated, "There is no black with a command post in the police department." He must have not known of, or forgotten about, Chief Moos, Chief Foxworth, or our female Police Chief Rosie Sizer. He seemed more concerned about pointing out the discrepancies between white and black officers within the police force, saying, "Inner-cities should have police departments representative of its people."

"That response comes from a place of being part of a community that has always struggled," Mayor Sam Adams said of anger over the shooting. "People are responding from a race-based perspective, and whether you agree or disagree, I don't intend to ignore that."

Rob Ingram, who heads the city's Youth Violence Prevention Program, and works closely with Police Commissioner Saltzman, says the Campbell shooting cannot be seen as a singular incident. He said it only strengthens an already deep-seated distrust of the police and a fear that interaction with them can potentially turn violent.

Police Union President Scott Westerman spoke to that distrust when he pointed out, "People are under this impression that we shot an unarmed black man for no reason in the back. And as long as that perception is continuing to be out there, we will continue to have this gap. Chief Sizer needs to be out there explaining what our training is and why the officers did what they did."



Oregon State Attorney General John Kroger addresses a rally of community members upset by Portland Police actions, February 19.

Photo by Joe Wirtheim



Community members upset by Portland Police actions rally in the PSU Park Blocks, February 19.

Photos by Joe Wirtheim



The grand jury voiced its opinion about police training, saying in their letter, “We could not indict Officer Ron Frashour on any criminal charge. That is not to say that we found him innocent, agreed with his decisions, or found that the police incident at Sandy Terrace was without flaw.” The jury added, “We feel that his death resulted from flawed police policies, incomplete or inappropriate training, incomplete communication, and other issues with the police effort. We feel strongly that something must be done to correct this, and the Portland Police Bureau should be held responsible for this tragedy.”

Leonard, commenting on the February 10 letter, said, “Sadly, if the past is any predictor of the future, the grand jury’s wish to hold the PPB responsible for the death of Aaron Campbell is not going to happen.”

He added, “It shouldn’t be that way this time. This is the second recent shooting death where the PPB has shot and killed a distraught citizen as a direct result of a lack of communication between the shooting officer and the Police negotiator.”

Leonard even uses a similar case from 2005 to illustrate his point. “Raymond Gwerder was threatening to shoot himself inside of an apartment,” he explained. “While he was on the phone with a police negotiator and cooperating with directions to surrender, he was shot and killed by a police sniper. The official reports in this case paint a picture of a complete absence of communication between the incident commander, the police negotiator, and the officer that shot Gwerder.”

The most damning statement Leonard made was in regards to Chief Sizer.

“Although I have my own opinion,” he said, “it is up to Mayor Adams and Commissioner Saltzman to decide how to respond. In my view, they can either repeat history by perpetuating an unhealthy deference to the Police Chief, or they can use this moment to take meaningful action and create a real turning point in the history and accountability of the Police Bureau.” As pointedly stated by the grand jury in this case, “With understanding and a plan for correction, perhaps the community unrest over this case will ease; perhaps the healing process can begin.”

Aaron Campbell deserved better. Portland deserves better. ■



Find more online:
www.portlandspectator.org

Oregon Legislators Act Fast

State representatives move quickly during Oregon's 2010 special session. Here's a look into their work and how it's going to affect college students

By Erica Charves

Oregon House Representative Scott Bruun (R-West Linn and PSU MBA) is tall and handsome with an athletic build that fills out his brown pinstriped suit. He's speaking quietly in the capitol lobby with another representative. Suddenly, in mid-sentence, the doors to the House open and a man shouts loud, long and bellowing, "Vote!" That's the signal; the debate is over and a vote has been literally shouted from the door.

Rep. Bruun enters the expansive chamber of the Oregon House of Representatives in Salem. His desk is among the rows of golden oak tables, each topped with a microphone and 2 buttons: red for no and green for yes. The giant mural on one wall behind the front dais depicts Oregon pioneers at Champoege establishing the first provincial government in 1843. Since its first legislative meeting, representatives run regular sessions in order to update and specify Oregon state laws, taxes and regulation. Laws in this short special session will affect everyone from students to physicians, and covers the contentious creation of sobriety checkpoints. For lawmakers, the recent short session was more like a cramming session for a test. When the final results are in, did legislators make the grade?

Portland State's ASPSU President Jonathan Sanford traveled to Salem on Thursday, February 18 to address lawmakers about three pressing student issues. House Joint Resolution 101 refers to bonds that would be made available upon certain contingencies for buildings at public universities like PSU. Another student-related bill passed by the Legislature was House Bill 3686, which will allow teachers in Oregon public schools to wear religious garb and means that students in the PSU graduate teaching program and students wearing Jewish, Christian, Muslim or Sikh head coverings interested in teaching can now seek employment in-state. Finally, Senate Bill 5564 budgets for Oregon Opportunity Grants, and PSU can expect, according to Sanford, an additional \$9.7 million in the budget thanks to this bill.

Health care has been the subject testing lawmakers. At the state level, health care is very partisan and reflects the same Republican vs. Democrat ideals found nationally in health care legislation. Among the proposals voted down by Republicans was an amendment obligating the state to provide "effective...affordable health care." Bruun, who will be running for Oregon's representative to Washington, D.C. voted against more government spending on health care, writing, "To say the government is spending like drunken sailors is, well, hugely unfair to drunken sailors." He and other Republicans feel free market choice is the key to health care. Bruun did vote yes to provide vision exams for children, and to create a pool of funds for high-risk patients.



Oregon legislators at the special session this February.
Photo by Erica Charves

Economic stability is on the minds of lawmakers in the Senate and the House who are proposing many bills relating to employment, the extension of unemployment benefits, and a number of loan-based laws. Among laws regulating loans, Oregon lawmakers voted to protect consumers in payday loans and title loans. Ranchers and winegrowers stand to benefit from new laws that allow wineries to have wine tasting on farm-zoned land, and guest ranches to encourage business growth for rural cattle farmers.

Veterans are seeing two important proposals to create a criminal diversion agreement for past or current service members to grant other sentencing based upon circumstances and timing of crime, with the exception of violent crimes or DUI charges. The second bill will designate veteran status on state-issued ID.

In the midst of the shortest month of the year, Oregon senators chose to meet on a Saturday—a nearly unheard of occurrence. They voted to keep the ban on offshore drilling, and to give tax breaks to some of Oregon's poorest homeowners living in mobile homes.

Due to the short nature of this year's special session, many bills have been stalled in committees without being discussed on the House or Senate floor. The plastic bag ban has been dropped for now, as was the ban on certain chemicals in baby bottles and containers for children. With such little time, Oregon representatives are cramming at night for a test the next day; they have cut short discussions and pushed laws ahead.

Even though lawmakers seem to be far away from daily life at PSU, deciding and voting on bills from afar, these results fund our school, have an effect on student life, and create more jobs for Oregonians. The test is now, but the report card will be delayed. Some laws go into effect immediately; others will take effect next year, like the law overturning the ban on teachers who wear religious garb. Finally, we will see a few measures on the next ballot, such as the creation of sobriety checkpoints. If this law is passed, it will change the state Constitution, requiring a vote open to all Oregonians in the next general election.

While the law may seem distant and disconnected, a short month-long session was used to set forward many issues, work toward job creation, small business financing, creating new green jobs in Oregon and a plethora of issues including student funding and the future of PSU buildings. As Oregon lawmakers set aside a month of committees, debate and voting, Oregonians are poised to grade their work in the upcoming election. ■

Balancing Act

As Republicans harangue the president and his Democrats for increasing the national debt, Obama signs a new law to reign in deficit spending—sort of.

By Jonathan Miles

Obama has already racked up a reputation as a spend thrift, and now, in his second year, he is both dispelling and validating that reputation. The Congressional Budget Office projected the deficit for the first four months of 2010 to reach above \$400 billion. Last month, Obama signed a law that is meant to force down federal spending by limiting Congress to a budget equaling the amount of money it actually has. This is not the first law of its kind, in fact, it has a 20-year-old nickname: PAYGO. PAYGO means that Congress has to pay as it goes. Like when you don't know how much money you're going to make every month and you just buy a cell phone loaded with minutes. If you run out of money, you can't buy any more minutes. Or, say you're in the grocery store, and you really need some ingredients for your PB and J sandwiches. But, it turns out you only have enough cash to buy peanut butter and bread. If you're the federal government under PAYGO restrictions, then you're getting ready to eat PB and bread sandwiches until your income picks up. Get it?

It's not that complicated, but our professorial Commander in Chief couldn't help but make it more convoluted than needed. Apparently, Obama felt torn between needing to draw down our federal debt by limiting government spending and needing to pay for stuff while keeping taxes low. So, in his typical bifurcated manner, Obama signed a PAYGO law that still allows for \$3.5 trillion worth in spending to be kept exempt from this law, and lifts the ceiling on federal borrowing to \$14.3 trillion.

"Sometimes, particularly in tough times like these," said Obama on signing day, "you have to make hard choices about where to spend and where to save. That's what being responsible means."

Obama wants to save here and spend there, but the spending there still outweighs the saving by a high amount, which could effectively nullify the PAYGO principle. Unless, of course, the point isn't to save money, but to limit spending on anything that falls outside of the president's spending agenda. That agenda, according to a *Washington Post* article, is made of tax cuts and Medicare spending. Specifically, the tax cuts that Bush Jr. passed. Obama also accounts for preventing the growth of the alternative minimum tax.

who owns our DEBT

Debt owned by "the public" has been sold in the form of bonds, notes and securities to individuals, companies, state governments, and foreign nations.

48% Foreign-Owned Debt

Public debt is 29% of total debt

Caribbean banking centers: 179.8 billion
Oil exporters: \$187.7 billion
The United Kingdom: \$277 billion
Japan: \$757.3 billion
China: \$801.5 billion

52% Domestic Debt

Domestic debt is 30% of total debt

State and Local governments: \$550.3 billion
Mutual Funds: \$694.5 billion
"Other investors" (including individuals, banks and businesses): \$1.114 trillion

Public
Debt 59%
of total debt

the national
DEBT

\$12,401

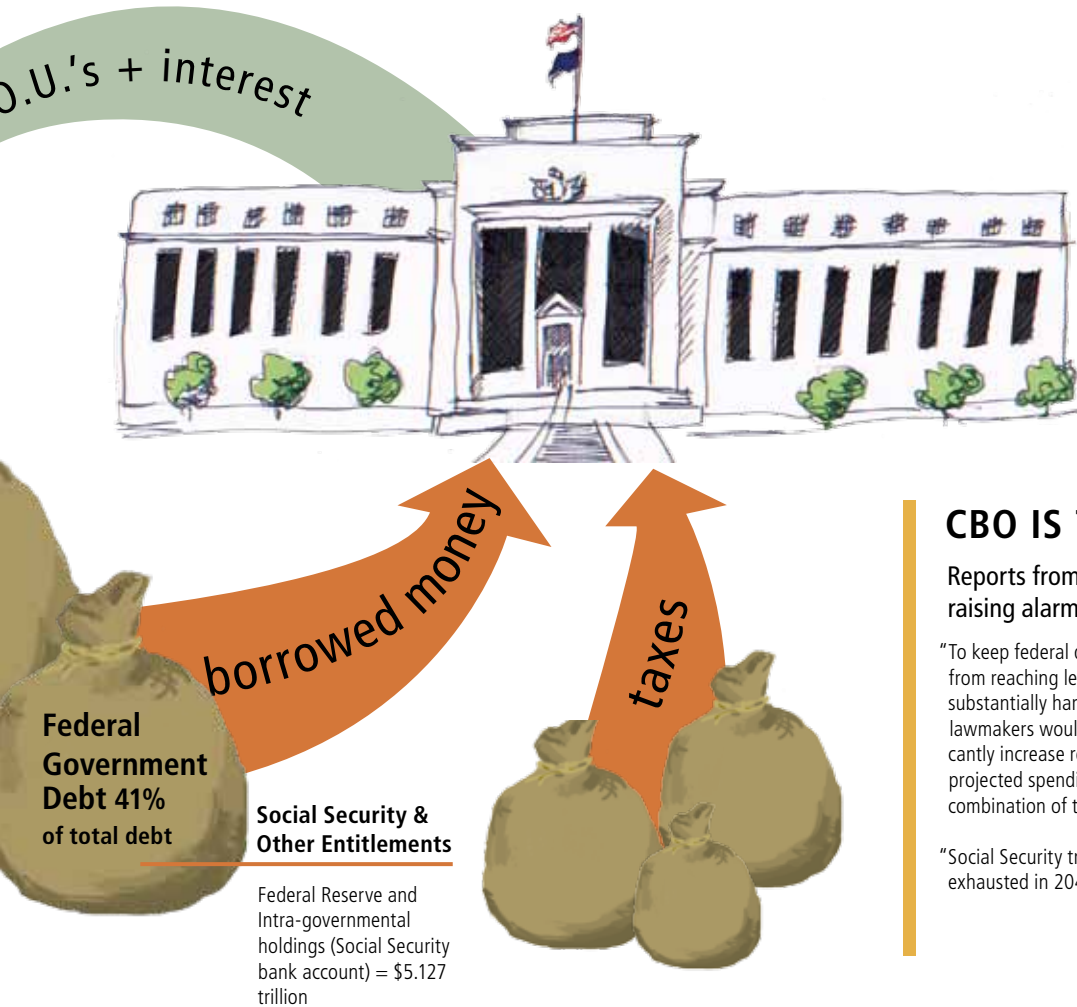
Data from the Federal OMB report

SPENDING BY CATEGORY

Social Security and other entitlements	\$2.1 trillion
Military	\$684 billion
Health and Human Services	\$84 billion
Transportation	\$76 billion
Education	\$47 billion
Everything else	less than \$44 billion

2010 BUDGET

REVENUE	\$2.17 trillion
SPENDING	\$3.72 trillion
DEFICIT	\$1.56 trillion



The Alternative Minimum Tax exists to ensure that people with high incomes still have to pay some taxes even if they qualify for enough tax loop-holes to technically owe nothing.

CBO IS THE HARBINGER OF DEBT

Reports from the Congressional Budget Office are raising alarms about the direction of our debt.

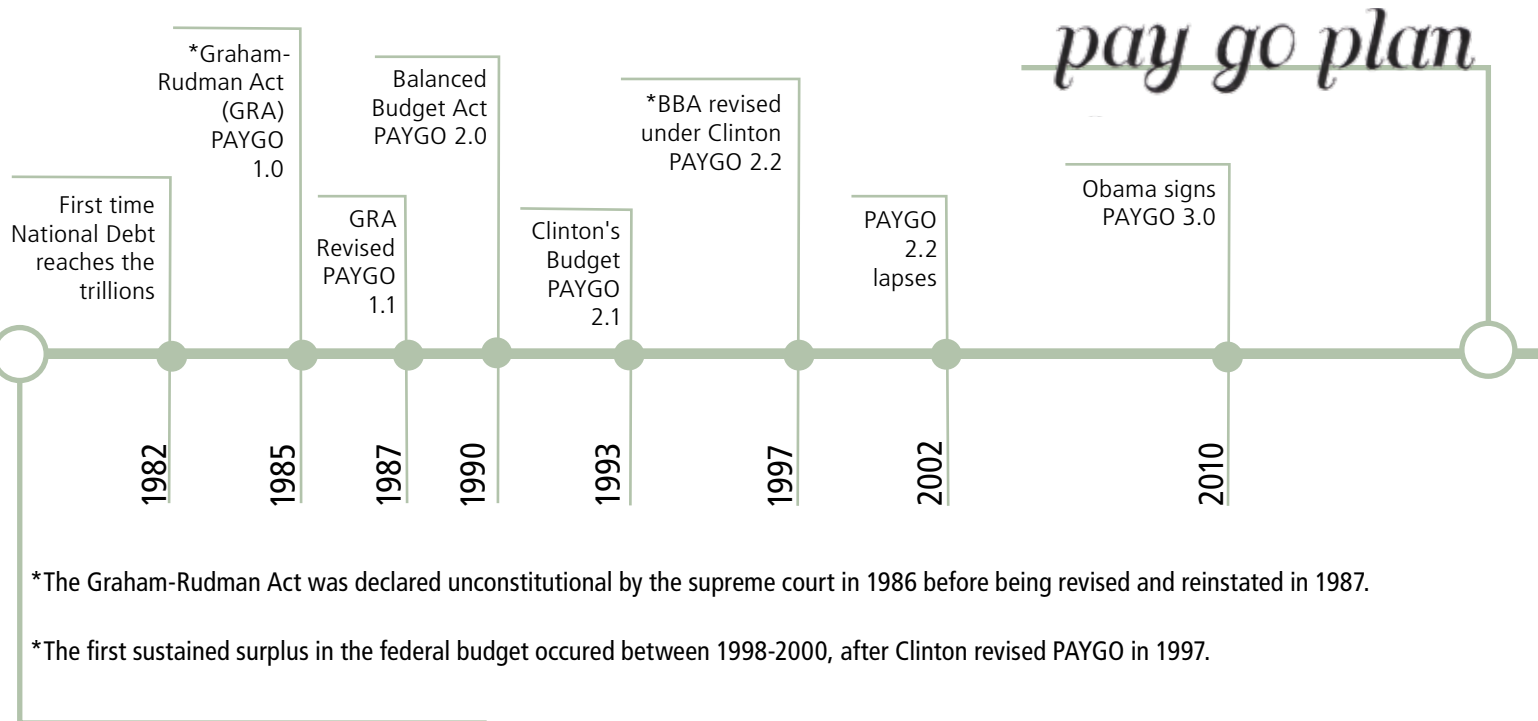
"To keep federal deficits and debt from reaching levels that would substantially harm the economy, lawmakers would have to significantly increase revenues, decrease projected spending, or enact some combination of the two."

"Social Security trust funds will be exhausted in 2043."

"If all tax provisions that are scheduled to expire in the coming decade were extended and the AMT [Alternative Minimum Tax] were indexed for inflation, deficits over the 2011–2020 period would be more than \$7 trillion higher."

"The government's spending on net interest will triple between 2010 and 2020, increasing from \$207 billion to \$723 billion."

,781,166,870.02



historical DEBT

129
TIMES DEBT
HAS INCREASED

80
TIMES DEBT
HAS DECREASED

209
YEARS WE'VE
BEEN IN DEBT

To be fair

To be fair, the CBO only projected into the first four months of 2010 when releasing the \$400 billion figure. And there's always the possibility that spending will slow down by the end of the year. But, that doesn't stop the freight train of federal borrowing that the CBO says will create an annual deficit of around \$600 billion through 2020, if current laws don't change. As of press time, the CBO has yet to analyze the new PAYGO law's effects.

Also, it should be noted that Obama is only keeping pace with the example of Bush Jr., who doubled the national debt in eight years and spent about \$700 billion in bailouts to save the economy on his way out the door. While Obama nets double criticism for following that up with a nearly \$800 billion stimulus bill, the stimulus is paid out over a period of 10 years, while the more than \$700 billion Bush sent over to Wall Street went in two easy payments.

Where's my PAYGO?

So, the federal government is allowed to borrow trillions while lowering its tax revenue and paying out entitlements. Yet when Oregon faces a budget shortfall, the decision has to be made whether to raise taxes (revenues) or cut programs (spending). As voters passed Measures 66 and 67, taxes were raised and programs were not cut. That sounds similar to the real PAYGO from the Clinton administration, which generated a surplus in the federal budget. Here's the unbelievable part: When our fair state generates a surplus, we don't save it. We don't even spend it. We just give it to corporations. This is called "the kicker," and the logic goes that we tax the hell out of business so they deserve a little kick back when it turns out that we don't need all that tax revenue. Even though Gov. Ted Kulongoski asked the Oregon Legislature to send that kicker into Oregon's rainy day fund, in Salem there is no talk of doing so. ■

A Sticky Situation for Corn Syrup Consumers

Americans love sweet foods—and high-fructose corn syrup has been the satisfying ingredient. Now, after five years of burying information, the U.S. government admits that mercury-contaminated high-fructose corn syrup is present in our favorite junk foods.

By Megan Kimmelshue



In 2005, an environmental health officer for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) delivered some critical news to her superiors. But instead of alerting food companies, consumers and changing industry practice, the FDA buried the information and went on with business as usual. After her retirement, the officer, Renee Dufault, took her findings to the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Health* and reported to the public that mercury-contaminated high-fructose corn syrup was being used in food production.

After the release of *Environmental Health's* article, the FDA admitted to being aware of the potentially significant amounts of mercury in the HFCS supply, but portrayed the findings as no cause for concern. The FDA's press officer, Michael Herndon, said his agency "takes mercury contamination very seriously" but doesn't believe the study provides "any specific information or sufficient analysis to reach the conclusion that there is any appreciable risk from this potential exposure from mercury."

The Corn Refiner's Association called Dufault's findings "outdated." Yet in 2008, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) confirmed her 2005 findings by testing for total mercury in 55 brand-name food and beverage products that listed HFCS as a leading ingredient. An independent laboratory found total mercury, above the limit of detection, in about one in three products, including soft drinks, salad dressings, barbecue sauces, flavored syrups and jams. They include some of the most recognizable brands on supermarket shelves: Quaker, Hunt's, Manwich, Hershey's, Smucker's, Kraft, Nutri-Grain and Yoplait.

Where are the Feds?

The FDA's silence raises larger questions about the mysterious corn industry and the prevalence of corn-based products in almost everything we consume, including sweeteners. Noted author and food industry critic Michael Pollan has a joke that we are "essentially walking corn chips." It doesn't seem far from the truth.

Although HFCS is primarily used as a sugar substitute, it also works well as a preservative. Under U.S. law, chemicals added to foods as preservatives are supposed to be FDA-approved for that purpose. Even though the industry uses HFCS extensively, it carries no such FDA approval, and the U.S.D.A even permits it to be called "natural."

In 1996, the FDA classified HFCS as "Generally Recognized as Safe" (GRAS), which means that although it has not been thoroughly studied or tested for safety, the FDA will consider it to be safe even if consumers have been harmed by it or studies show otherwise.

When the FDA set a safe level recommendation based on an understanding of existing mercury exposure, they never thought to build mercury-contaminated HFCS into their calculations. FDA does not currently have a mercury surveillance program for food ingredients manufactured with mercury-grade chlor-alkali products. According to the *Environmental Health* study, "Quantitative information on long-term effects of inorganic mercury compounds on humans does not exist." Under current regulations, information regarding potential mercury contamination is not made available to either consumers or to companies who purchase HFCS to use in their product manufacturing.

The authors of the *Environmental Health* study state, "Regardless of its intended use, it is imperative that public health officials evaluate this potential source of mercury exposure, as HFCS is

presently ubiquitous in processed foods and therefore significantly consumed by people all over the world.”

Follow the money

Corn is one of the world’s most lucrative commodities. The production of HFCS, being a corn product, is also big business. To start from the ground up, it is important to know whose money is at stake in the industry.

Most of the corn used for HFCS is genetically modified—a special hybrid created by the agricultural giant Monsanto (the company also responsible for Agent Orange, Aspartame and rBGH hormone used in milk production). Monsanto created a special hybrid with a higher level of extractable starch content, which is turned into high-fructose corn syrup, corn oil, specialty and commodity starch products, and ethanol.

Monsanto owns the bulk of the world’s seeds and seed patents, including corn varieties. According to PoliticalFriendster.com, Monsanto may also own many of our politicians. The political calendar ensures that the road to the White House starts in Iowa, meeting and greeting with

corn farmers. Former U.S. Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson received \$50,000 in donations from Monsanto during his campaign for Wisconsin’s governor. During the 2000 elections, Monsanto donated the most to Larry Combest, former chairman of the House Agricultural Committee, and John Ashcroft, who was later to be named Attorney General. Donald Rumsfeld was on the Board of Directors of Monsanto’s producer of Aspartame, Searle Pharmaceuticals. Monsanto’s General Counsel and Secretary to the Board Charles W. Burson was Al Gore’s former Chief of Staff. The list goes on.

In an eerie resemblance to the tobacco industry of the 1990s, the Corn Refiner’s Association also has much at stake in the research done on HFCS. They claim to have done their own nutritional research to show that HFCS is equal to or better than table sugar. In October 2008, CBS News reported that three out of the six nutritional studies were sponsored by groups that would profit from the outcome, including Pepsi and the American Beverage Association. Often, researchers who claim HFCS has no adverse health effects are tied to the corn industry in some way. In an article published by the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, author John S. White writes, “Its safety was never seriously doubted because expert scientific panels in every decade since the 1960s drew the same conclusion: sucrose, fructose, glucose, and, latterly, HFCS did not pose a significant health

risk, with the single exception of promoting dental caries.” At the end of his article, White lists his paying consulting clients—including the Corn Refiner’s Association.

According to Dufault, “Biomedical researchers, and journal editors, rely on federal and corporate grant money these days to fund their research. Industry has a great deal of say over how the FDA operates.” This may be why the FDA has kept almost silent on the issue, and organizations like the American Medical Association use statistics from authors like White to refute any findings that suggest otherwise.

Mercury contamination is avoidable

HFCS can be made using caustic soda and hydrochloric acid without using mercury technology. According to the IATP, there are four mercury-cell plants operating in the U.S. and forty percent of the plants outside the U.S. use mercury-cell technology. These plants likely also sell mercury-contaminated caustic soda and other food-grade ingredients all over the world, including to makers of the HFCS that ultimately ends up on American supermarket shelves. Other countries, including Japan, have banned the use of the mercury-cell process. “Even if American mercury-cell plants shut down tomorrow,” says IATP’s Dr. David Wallinga, “it would not spell the end of mercury contamination of the American food supply.” ■

WHAT CAN I DO?

Contact your representatives in Washington and tell them you want them to support the Missing Mercury in Manufacturing Monitoring and Mitigation Act. Congress can act immediately to pass legislation that will phase out mercury-cell technology in U.S. chlorine plants, and if passed, would phase out all mercury cells in use in the United States by January 2012.

Call your elected officials and ask them for hearings to find out why the FDA is not protecting us from mercury in HFCS. The FDA should begin testing all com-

mercial grade HFCS used in producing foods or beverages sold in the U.S. and those findings should be made public.

Call food manufacturers. They aren’t required to list on their products the source of their HFCS and whether or not it is made from mercury-grade caustic soda. Find the toll-free numbers or Web sites on packaging and let companies know you’re not comfortable eating their product until you know exactly what is in it.

Read all food labels and avoid those containing HFCS, especially if it is high on the label.

HFCS was introduced to the American market in 1967 and from 1967 to 2005, American consumption of caloric sweeteners – HFCS, honeys and edible syrups, as well as table sugar, went up 24 percent to equal over 141 pounds per person per year. Table sugar consumption dropped over that time. By 1984, Coca-Cola had transitioned to using the syrup to sweeten its sodas sold in the U.S. In 2004, HFCS represented more than 40 percent of all caloric sweeteners added to beverages and foods. In 2007, the average American consumed approximately 40 pounds of HFCS annually; equivalent to having 12 teaspoons each day.

The Spectator's Rearbuttal

Editor's Note: Through June, The Rearguard and The Spectator will each feature a column of "banter," in a civilized manner, on issues of concern to the reading public at Portland State University. This is the Portland Spectator's response.

WE DIDN'T THINK IT COULD, BUT THE
REARGUARD JUST GOT WORSE.

By Molly Shove

You probably didn't see the back page comics of *The Rearguard* in February, but believe me when I say it's offensive. Maybe you did see their version of "Hagar the Horrible" taped to the walls of Smith. Hagar and his smaller companion are in a bar and Hagar implies that he intends to rape the other. In all-caps black marker on the bottom of the poster is:

DEAR ADAM & REARGUARD,
RAPE IS NOT FUNNY! NOT EVEN
BETWEEN TWO GUYS! YOU
SHOULD BE ASHAMED!

What you probably haven't seen is the ongoing conversation between Kevin Thomas, the man who put up the signs, and Isaac Mayo, editor-in-chief of *The Rearguard*:

DEAR EDITOR,
... Does it not even occur to you that by making a joke out of alcohol fueled sexual abuse that you are raising the fear factor that women, and apparently smaller men, have to live with on a daily basis because of our RAPE CULTURE? Who in the world is monitoring your trauma inducing content? You should all be ashamed of yourselves, and Adam Barber, you should resign.
— KEVIN THOMAS

DEAR KEVIN SMITH [sic],
... To answer your question about what sort of Orwellian oversight we are held responsible to, the answer is that it is you! It's Kevin Thomas! You yourself are the one that 'monitors' our content. Once again, bravo Kevin Thomas! Without you, the scourge of our insensitive work would have gone completely ignored.

Most people are not so astute as to realize the true intent of the Rearguard. Which is of course to promote rape culture...

— ISAAC MAYO

DEAR ISSAC MAYO ET. AL,
... If you're going to spoof popular media by bringing up unfortunate circumstances, then I suggest you include some editorial content to help educate your audience. Otherwise, you come across as smug privileged insensitive jerks who do not care about others' feelings and trauma caused by hurtful words.

— KEVIN THOMAS

I know that *The Spectator* has already done a fair share of talking about how *The Rearguard* fails to live up to journalistic standards, and this conversation, takes things to a whole new level of nausea. This isn't just the opinion of *The Spectator*; members of the PSU student body have made it clear, in no uncertain terms: what *The Rearguard* is doing is unacceptable.

The last time we called attention to the incompetence of their paper, they responded with a column saying they are "not 100 percent serious," and that they would rather use satire to defend the "nature of the universe." They then revised their mission statement minimally to talk about how cool irrelevant things are and promptly got back to neglecting their paper.

Now a member of the student body called attention to some bigger issues going on, and they respond with "you're not smart enough to understand." Wow, apparently, Isaac Mayo is not old enough to say, "I'm sorry, I made a mistake." The truth is that it's not just the comic or the rude letter that

shows *The Rearguard* needs a glass of cold water in the face.

I can appreciate "satire." But they really aren't writing satire. Satire implies "wit," namely a combination of social commentary, humor and intelligence. Sometimes they get it, but mostly, they're too lazy to put any kind of intelligence in their humor. The front cover of February's issue was headlined "Full Nude Yoga," which cleverly used the fold and the "Fu" and "Yo" to deliver a subtle hint to readers. And "Real Porn Shop Stories?" Now, I know that naked bodies and sex are funny, because I was twelve years old once too, but I'm kind of over middle school and I expect a little more from the people receiving thousands of my student fee dollars.

If there is an audience for satire, you, the students of PSU, are intelligent enough to appreciate interesting, topical and intelligent humor. But the rape, nudity and alcohol related jokes aren't funny or tolerable. Above all, *The Rearguard* can't conduct itself in a mature and sensitive way and needs to get its act together or risk getting shut down for its offensive actions.

If you are looking for satire, we suggest *The Onion*, which is actually smart and funny. If you were looking for the "progressive alternative publication" that does "support the right to live free of sexism, racism, classism and homophobia," or one that provides "a voice for the oppressed and marginalized at PSU," you'd be better off reading *The Spectator*. We don't throw rape and homophobic jokes into our paper or specifically target people who don't fit our arbitrary definition of cool, and we spend enough of our time sober to pay attention to the people at PSU who are most marginalized: conservatives. ■



Make the move to Unitus[®] today!

You'll love the way we treat you. You can count on us for straight talk and a good value. In fact, you'll quickly discover that we look out for your financial interests at all times.

That's what being your community credit union is all about. We are not-for-profit, staffed by your friends and neighbors, and deeply rooted right here, where you go to school and live. Our local service and support make a real difference. The Unitus difference.

MEMBERSHIP IS YOURS AT ANY BRANCH OR ONLINE AT UNITUSCCU.COM. ANYONE WHO LIVES OR WORKS IN MULTNOMAH, CLACKAMAS, WASHINGTON, MARION, POLK, YAMHILL OR CLARK COUNTY IS ELIGIBLE.



503 227 5571 + unitusccu.com



Federally insured by NCUA

Present this coupon to receive your iPod!

Open a Unitus Rewards Checking account with a \$100 deposit and you'll receive an iPod Shuffle*. Hurry, you must open your account no later than April 30, 2010!

Join Unitus Community Credit Union at one of these nearby branches:

University District
2121 SW 4th Avenue, Portland

Unitus Plaza
1300 SW 6th Avenue, Portland



iPod is a registered trademark of Apple

* We will mail the iPod to the address on your account within 30 days. Coupon must be presented at the time of account opening. Offer good while supplies last.